

IN THE CLAIMS

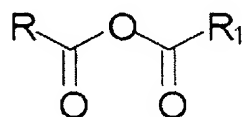
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for chemical treatment of at least one lignocellulose material, comprising:

impregnating the lignocellulose material with a chemical agent comprising hydrocarbonaceous chains:

wherein:

the agent comprises a mixed anhydride, given by the formula:



where R is a ~~first~~ hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R₁ is a ~~second~~ hydrocarbonaceous chain ~~different from the first hydrocarbonaceous chain~~ derived from a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, except that when ~~either of R or R₁~~ is a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from acetic acid, ~~the other of R and R₁~~ is not a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from benzoic acid; and

the agent is capable of providing covalent grafting of a plurality of the hydrocarbonaceous chains to the lignocellulose material.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covalent grafting is carried out by esterification of the lignocellulose material with the agent.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out at a temperature between ambient temperature and 150 °C.

Claims 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~R is a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R₁ is a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, and the carboxylic acid and fatty acid are saturated or unsaturated.~~

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixed anhydride comprises a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from acetic acid and a hydrocarbonaceous chain derived from octanoic acid.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a basic catalyst.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a neutral catalyst.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out in the presence of a weak acid catalyst.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out in the ~~presence~~ absence of a catalyst.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out by a dipping process.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out by a spraying process.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating is carried out in an autoclave.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lignocellulose material comprises at least one piece of wood.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fibers are homogeneous and exhibit a smoothed appearance.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of absorption is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of swelling is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the wood comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of oak, pine, fir, curupixa and eucalyptus.